

Draft Minutes of the 689th meeting of the Boundless by CSMA Farnborough Group
Committee held at St Mark's Church Hall,
Guildford Road East, Farnborough on
Saturday 28th August 2021 commencing at 11.00

Present:

Chair David Pegg (DP)
Secretary: Tim Shenton-Taylor (TST)
Treasurer: Ian Moir (IM)
Committee Members: Barry Early (BE)

Nick Woodward (NW) prospective committee member

1. Apologies for absence:

Joe Robson (JR)

Nick Woodward was welcomed to the meeting having put himself forward as a possible committee member

2. Minutes of last meeting

The meeting had taken place seventeen months ago! Minutes accepted as a true record.

3. Actions arising from 7th March 2020 (688th) meeting

Action 688 – 01 Request for new Group Secretary and additional committee members

Several requests made since the meeting. Nick Woodward had indicated the possibility of becoming a committee member and possibly acting as Secretary. No other positive responses.

Action 688 – 02 IM to provide TST with a financial report for the AGM

Overtaken by Covid pandemic.

Action 688 – 03 DP to provide TST with a report for the AGM

Overtaken by Covid pandemic.

Action 688 – 04 TST to generate report for the AGM

Overtaken by Covid pandemic.

4. Events since last meeting:

4.1 No events held since March 2020

TST contacted all Farnborough Group 'Members' to gauge support for participation in Farnborough Group virtual (eg Zoom) meetings. A very poor response and less than ten positive responses. Given the lack of support the Farnborough Group became dormant although some of the 'Members' had participated in virtual, and on-line, events organised by other Groups.

5. Secretary's report

5.1 TST reported that there had naturally been a considerable amount of correspondence relating to the pandemic. Each change of restrictions / relaxations resulted in additional correspondence.

Club Council minutes and Communiques continued throughout, and details of these were forwarded to all committee members. In addition a number of virtual meetings were provided by Heather Glanville and Madeleine Grubb.

During the period since the last meeting there had been changes within the Local Group Representatives with Phil Bustard being allocated Farnborough Group. He had contacted TST to introduce himself and to get a feel for the group's situation. He was aware that other Groups were in a similar situation to ours. Phil stood down shortly afterwards and Mike Millward was appointed to us instead. He subsequently finished his three year tenure and recent LGR elections have taken place. The three LGRs elected were Janice Stace, Bob Thomas and Jeff Kenyon. The results were only announced recently and to date we have not been informed as to who will be the main contact for Farnborough Group.

A selected list (ie Covid related excluded) of correspondence received is attached (Appendix 1) to these minutes.

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 1/1//20 to 28/8/21

IM had forwarded the accounts, covering the period from lockdown to present, to committee members in advance of the meeting.

IM reported that very little activity had occurred other than expenses relating to our February 2020 Club Night and the last committee meeting. In order to ensure the retention of our Club Night venue post-pandemic it had been seen prudent to book rooms for September, October and November 2021 even though they may not actually be used.

The RHS membership was renewed as this was seen as a possible activity once pandemic restrictions had been lifted and Members were more likely to participate in events.

The budget submitted in October 2020 had been accepted and IM stated that the next budget submission was due by 15th October. IM suggested that we request the same budget.

7 Meeting reports

7.1 Club Council

As mentioned above the Club Council has held virtual meetings on 25/6/20, 30/9/20, 1/12/20, 28/4/21 and 30/6/21. These were forwarded to committee members.

The report to Council from the Local Group Representatives painted a mixed picture of activity within the Groups. Some, like Farnborough, had ground to a halt. Some had remained active using Zoom meetings etc and some were awaiting re-opening of club venues to allow normal club nights to be resumed. There was a continued lack of volunteers to participate as committee members and to undertake key roles. The pandemic has held back the continued need to attract new 'Members'.

7.2 Association AGM (Thursday 25th June 2020)

This of course had been cancelled.

7.3 Group Networking meetings

TST reported that three Group Networking meetings were planned. Guildford (Newlands Corner) on Wednesday 3/11/21, Taunton on Tuesday 9/11/21 and Derby on Thursday 11/11/21.

DP to inform Brighton that DP, IM and TST would like to attend.

Action 689 – 01 DP to inform Brighton accordingly

8. Future of Farnborough Group

At the time of the meeting only two events have been scheduled

Sunday 10th October - Topographia rally (Winchester OS map)

Thursday 18th October - AGM - to include fish and chip supper and other activities.

TST reported that he had only had ten confirmed attendees for the October AGM. Whilst this would be quorate it does not bode well for the Group. A small number of Members, including DP, who normally attend the AGM had sent apologies due to other commitments.

Although the Farnborough Group situation does look somewhat bleak IM thought that we should give the 'Members' an opportunity to indicate whether they would support the Group and this should be done through the AGM.

It was good that NW had stepped forward but, with a replacement Secretary, and additional committee members, still required it was decided to delay the AGM until Thursday 18th November in the hope that this date may attract more 'Members' and indicate that the Group had a viable future..

If the situation does not change then it is highly likely that the Farnborough Group will close. This would be a pity given its long history and variety of successful, and clearly enjoyed, events that have been provided.

All Farnborough Group 'Members' to be informed of the change of date and provided with a clear indication of the current situation in the hope that people will wish to see the Group survive and be prepared to offer the necessary support. Member Communities to be asked to send an email shot about the AGM to Boundless Members within a 30 mile radius of Farnborough.

Action 689 – 02 TST to email all 'members' and request email shot by Member Communities.

As we currently hold an associate membership of RHS it was decided to try and arrange our annual trip to Wisley. The Boundless Members' day at RHS Wisley is scheduled for Saturday 18th September with a reduced entry fee of £10. Attendees of our event are only charged £1 so we need to be careful that we do not compromise the Boundless event. It was suggested that we look to see what events Wisley are holding before the end of the year and try and arrange our visit to coincide with one of these.

Action 689 – 03 TST to contact RHS Wisley to establish possibilities.

Although attendances at our annual Christmas Lunch have been reducing slightly in recent years it remained one of the highlights of the year. Potential level of support to be sought with a view to holding a 2021 event.

Action 689 – 04 TST to canvass Members and to establish what availability the Lismoyne Hotel currently has.

TST suggested that it might be sensible to consider moving to a local hotel as a venue. Whilst this would be more expensive it would avoid the need for someone to set up / break down the meeting room and for someone to arrange for refreshments to be available. Other Groups use similar facilities so there should be no problem in getting a larger budget approved.

DP said that this option could also be supported by establishing a 'Meetings Secretary' to coordinate the booking of speakers and events with a 'General Secretary' dealing with the correspondence with Members' and Member Communities.

Prior to the pandemic the Group had only had a small number of new 'Members' attending our events and this was offset by people we had sadly lost or had moved away.

NW wondered whether it might be possible to use 'Meet-up' to look for new members but this would be difficult given that there is the fundamental requirement for Boundless membership.

TST reiterated his disappointment that Boundless was not targeting a younger (ie 30 upwards) membership. Although the older groups clearly have more free time, and disposable income, this approach does not appear to be generating the much-needed increase in membership. Almost all of the existing committee had originally joined for the motoring related, benefits. However, the benefits offered by Boundless do not currently seem to be sufficiently attractive to be able to generate an additional pool of potential 'Group' Members.

9. 2021 AGM - Thursday 21st October 2021.

Already discussed - see above.

Action 689 – 05 DP, IM and TST to prepare reports for the AGM

10. Any Other Business

IM indicated that he would produce another Filter in the coming weeks. TST enquired if anyone had seen which Group's news had been voted the best - the Group had nominated Filter for consideration.

The meeting closed at 12.35

**Appendix 1 for agenda item 5 – 28th August 2021
(excludes Covid related correspondence)**

- 1 9 March – Jeff Kenyon – Offer of additional support for the Group
- 2 2 April – Madeleine Grubb – Letter to all Groups
- 3 20 April – Nick Hoath – Notification of death of Geoff France
- 4 8 June - Nick Hoath - 100th anniversary arrangements
- 5* 17 June – Nick Hoath – Members Communique (June)
- 6 23 June – Nick Hoath – Help available to establish Zoom events
- 7 7 July – Nick Hoath – Opportunity for Local Group Representative
- 8* 7 July – Nick Hoath – Draft Club Council minutes (25th June)
- 9* 17 August - Nick Hoath - Members Communique (August)
- 10 1 September - Nick Hoath - Request for 2021 budget proposals
- 11 7 September - Nick Hoath - Notification of Phil Bustard's appointed as LGR
for Farnborough
- 12 * 2 October - Nick Hoath – Draft Club Council minutes (30th September)
- 13 14 October - Nick Hoath - Requests for submission of honoraria requests
- 14* 21 October - Nick Hoath - Local Groups Communique
- 15* 3 December - Nick Hoath - Draft Club Council minutes (1st December)
- 16 4 December - Nick Hoath - Confirmation of 2021 budget
- 17* 10 December - Nick Hoath - Members Communique (December)
- 18 14 January - Nick Hoath - Instruction to postpone AGMs to June/July)
- 19 14 January - Nick Hoath - Information request for Local Group report to Club
Council
- 20* 18 January - Nick Hoath - Members Communique (February)
- 21* 30 April - Nick Hoath - Draft Club Council minutes (28th April)
- 22 6 May - Mike Millard - MM replacing Phil Bustard as Farnborough LGR

**Appendix 1 for agenda item 5 – 28th August 2021
(excludes Covid related updates etc)
(continued)**

- 23 2 June - Nick Hoath - Notification of death of Donald Heseltine
- 24 18 June - Nick Hoath - Notification of November 2021 Group Networking Meetings
- 25* 2 July - Nick Hoath - Draft Club Council minutes (30th June)
- 26* 14 July - Nick Hoath - Members Communique (July)
- 27 2 August - Nick Hoath - Notification to submit Group budget request
- 28 10 August - Mike Millward - Notification that MM ending his tenure as LGR
- 29 19 August - Nick Hoath - Notification that Janice Stace Bob Thomas and Jeff Kenyon appointed as LGRs
- 30 19 August - Nick Hoath - Notification that Gerard O'Sullivan reappointed as Club Treasurer

* Indicates those communications forwarded to all committee members